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In This Paper

SMOKE IN NAVAL BATTLES

Germans May Use Sulphurous Vapors
 When They Come Out to Attack
 British Fleet.

Two German torpedo boats ran a British merchantman into Swedish territorial water recently, and, in order to get it out again, went near and enveloped it in a sulphurous and fuliginous cloud of smoke. It will be remembered that, in the action of the Dogger bank, German torpedo boats in the same way cast out clouds of smoke in order to screen their battle cruisers from our squadron. It appears that the Germans have adopted the defensive device of the cuttlefish.

But it seems possible that there is a deeper design in this smoke plan. The Germans believe in their medium batteries, and, if they ever fight a fleet action, would prefer to fight it at moderate or short range, at which their inferiority of gun power would be less detrimental to them. May they not have devised this means of getting in to close quarters, and might it not also assist the approach of submarines? If this be the idea, then it would seem that the lee gage rather than the weather gage will have to be sought in the battles of the future.—London Observer.

TRYING SITUATION.

"But your constituents will want to know how you stand on this question."

"Of course they will," replied the eminent statesman, "but I shall, nevertheless, keep them guessing for a while."

"Do you consider that a good policy?"

"Yes, in my case, as I shall continue to guess with them."

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HAWSERS OF VAST STRENGTH

Monster Steamers Use Steel Ropes Which It Would Seem Could Withstand Any Power.

After laborious attempts to tow the Thessaloniki into port the Greek liner Patria arrived at New York and her captain reported that three heavy steel hawsers had parted during the effort to save the disabled ship. The lines that parted were 4 1/2-inch hawsers, which means that a strain of 31 tons, or 62,000 pounds, had been exerted before the break.

In general towing and lighter ship work a three-inch steel hawser is the usual line used. This consists of six steel wire strands tightly wound on a central hemp which is soaked in oil, giving a certain pliability. This sort of hawser is also used by some of the steamship lines for permanent moorings. The breaking point of the three-inch steel line is about 23 tons. Its cost is 29 cents a foot.

The largest of steel towing lines is the one six inches in circumference, the breaking strain of which is 54 tons, or 108,000 pounds. Because of the weight of this line and the difficulty of handling it the 4 1/2-inch hawser is the one mostly used for heavy towing.

In bulk the biggest hawsers used in an American port were those on the Hamburg-American liners Vaterland and Imperator. For permanent moorings these great liners used 24-inch hemp hawsers besides smaller lines of steel wire and hemp.

MADE A QUICK RECOVERY

Elevator Man Fainted When Leg Was Crushed, but Soon Got Back on Job—It Was Cork.

When the doors of the service elevator at the Alexandria closed unexpectedly just as Joe Brousett was starting the machine it jammed his leg, mashing it fearfully. Brousett fainted. Fortunately the elevator stopped without dragging him.

"Doc" Bassett, superintendent of service, called an ambulance and hurried Brousett to his home. He appeared dazed. A physician was called. Mr. Bassett returned to the hotel and put a new man on the elevator.

Three hours later he entered the elevator and was astounded to see Brousett operating it. For a moment he thought it was a ghost, but Brousett assured him that everything was all right.

"You see, that was a cork leg that got smashed," he said. "The accident brought back so vividly my original accident that I fainted and only came to by the time I reached home. Then I put on my reserve leg and came back to work."—Los Angeles Times.

Grand Duke's Playful Way.

The Grand Duke Nicholas is not a man who talks, but he has a playful way with him at times, according to the story told by Julius West in "Soldiers of the Czar." Some time ago, during an inspection, the grand duke was standing next to the emperor, a few yards away from a group of generals. He ordered General Rusky, then in command of the forces in that region, to step forward. The grand duke next ordered a private soldier to come forward and hack off the general's epaulettes. "We can imagine," says Mr. West, "the dismay of the other generals as the soldier obeyed. 'Now cut mine off,' was the next order. The soldier did so. 'Now put them on his shoulders.'"

It was the grand duke's playful little way of promoting Rusky to the rank of adjutant general, the highest in the Russian army.

New Indigestible Dish.

Did you ever eat a knish? No. Then you have missed a good attack of indigestion and perhaps the undertaker. A knish is something like a dumpling, only infinitely more so. It is made up of dough, chopped potatoes, onions, cheese, kasha, butter, eggs and other cereals, weighs a ton or less and costs five cents, normally. Since it became a war baby it costs four cents under certain conditions. It is the great piece de resistance on New York's east side. Every store sells knishes, and the competition is so great that some of the merchants are giving coupons to buyers. A certain number of these coupons entitles the holder to a certificate and a hack to Bellevue with ten knishes.

Gains Four Pounds in Three Hours.

Raymond Tilton, twenty-one years old, performed the unusual feat of gaining four pounds of weight in less than three hours in order to become a soldier in the United States army, reports the Cincinnati Chronicle. Tilton, whose parents live in Richmond, Ky., desired to join the infantry, and he tipped the scale at 123 pounds, being three pounds shy. He was notified that the government is strict in regard to this matter, and was told to return when he acquired the necessary avoirdupois. Tilton invested in a 35-cent meal and imbibed freely of water. Then it was found that he had gained four pounds, one more than the government required. He was accepted.

What We Wish to Know.

An aged Frenchman, who has worked out a system for forecasting the weather, claims we are to have a succession of twenty-six very severe winters, commencing with the present one. If he can tell us how long the European war is to last, however, it will be of greater interest.—Cashkoh Northwestern.

WHO ARE MEXICAN PEOPLE?

They Had Civilization Before Spanish Explorers Entered Continent—Mixture of Races.

There are still numbers of Americans who are under the misapprehension that the Mexican is some kind of negro—or, at least, that there is a strong infusion of African blood, as in Haiti. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Not only is there less African blood in Mexico than in the United States, in proportion to population, but there is less even after you have eliminated our black belt. Many better informed persons refer to the native Mexicans as Indians. But they are not Indians—as we know Indians. True, here and there in the mountainous regions are found tribes of semi-savages who compare with the native peoples of what is now the United States, says the World Outlook. But they figure in national affairs little more than our own pure-blood Cherokees et al. figure here. When the Spanish conqueror came the bulk of the aboriginal Mexicans were not savages, but a civilized people, as far removed from the wild nomads of North America as the white races themselves. This aboriginal Mexican element is variously estimated as representing from one-third to one-half the population, by some guessers even more. It has furnished some of the most learned scholars and exalted patriots celebrated in Mexican history. The greater part of the remaining population is made up of mixed Spanish and aboriginal blood, from which is derived the term, "Spanish-American." It is to this mixture of European and Aztec that is attributed the peculiar traits of the "Spanish-American character," and the supposedly woeful inferiority of our neighbors to the southward.

ST. JOHN'S EVE CUSTOMS

Brittany Village Folk Kindle Great Bonfires and Maidens Use Charms To Get Husbands.

Some of the customs of St. John's eve in Brittany are as quaint as they are picturesque. In many villages giant bonfires are built, and round them, in a circle, seats are placed for the departed. The cure has charge of kindling fire, or, where it is possible a boy dressed as an angel is let down the bell tower by means of a pulley, and lifted up out of sight again after he has applied a lighted faggot to the pile.

To insure getting a husband before the end of the year the village maidens dance round nine bonfires, and return home to dream of the young man destined for them. At midnight they rise and lay the table with bread and cheese and garlic, and throw the front door wide open. There is no obligation for them to accept whoever is the first to enter, but it often happens that they do, for the right man is not likely to miss his chance. If indeed, he appears, the parents are quickly called in to give their consent to a betrothal, which takes place there and then.

Swiss Move of Importance.

The Swiss federal council recently authorized the creation of the Societe Suisse de Surveillance. It will be composed of fifteen Swiss appointed by the council and chosen from the various cantons where German, French and Italian are spoken. The organization will supervise the importation of supplies and materials required for home consumption and to provide Swiss industries with material. It will exercise no control over the importation of metals, which is in charge of a separate syndicate under government control.

French Colonial Possessions.

The French possession of Indo-China comprises the colony of Cochin-China, the protectorates of Cambodia, Annam, Tonkin and Laos, and the territory of Kwong-Chow-Wan, leased from China—an area embracing approximately 310,000 square miles. The population is estimated at 18,000,000, of which about 35,000 are Europeans, the rest being natives, savage tribesmen, Chinese, Malays, and Hindoos. The principal city as well as the principal port of entry is Saigon, Cochin-China. There are now 1,378 miles of railroad operated in Indo-China.

Modern War Conditions.

The sword is the costliest single article in the equipment a subaltern officer of the British army must buy, and since under present conditions this weapon is worn only when royalty reviews the troops that form of celebration is proving none too welcome in the new armies. Presumably grandchildren of veterans sixty years or so hence will weep over the dear little rusty tin can in which the old hero carried his bouillon to the battle line at Mons.

Gets Soft Wood From America.

China draws its principal supplies of soft woods from the United States and Japan. In 1915, the last year for which figures are available, China imported from the United States approximately 79,700,000 feet board measure, valued at \$1,500,000. These imports were more than twice the amount of the preceding year and 16,000,000 feet in excess of 1910.

Germany Has 2,500 Ambulance Dogs.

At a meeting of the German Ambulance Dogs association it was stated that the number of trained dogs owned by the association at the beginning of the war was only eight, but that the number was now 2,500.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Notice is hereby given that the Colored Board of Education, of Hopkinsville, Ky., Ned Turner, chairman, will receive bids up to 12 o'clock, Wednesday, May 10th, for the erection and completion of a brick school building, on a lot on the corner of First and Vine streets, in Hopkinsville, Ky., according to plans and specifications prepared for the same by John T. Waller, architect, Hopkinsville, Ky.

A bond will be required to the amount of the contract, guaranteeing the delivering of the completed building free from liens and according to all requirements of the plans and specifications.

Each bidder will be required to accompany his proposal with a certified check for \$450.00, payable to Ned Turner, chairman, which check will be forfeited to the Colored Board of Education should the bidder fail to enter into contract and make the required bond in ten days from the time contract is awarded him.

Plans may be seen at the office of the architect. A limited number of sets of the plans and specifications have been prepared to loan to bidders on the general contract and may be had by making application to John T. Waller, architect.

Parties not known will be required to make a deposit of \$10 which will be returned if the set of plans and specifications are returned not later than the day of opening the proposals.

The Colored Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

JOHN T. WALLER,
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